

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

25

September 9, 2003

FROM: KEN A. MILLER, Director
Department of Public Works - **Transportation**

**SUBJECT: CEQA EXEMPTION FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO SUNNY HILL ROAD
AND ALTA LOMA DRIVE IN THE JOSHUA TREE AREA**

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Find that the project for road improvements on Sunny Hill Road and Alta Loma Drive in the Joshua Tree area is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Class 1, Section 15301(c) {Minor Alterations}; and (2) Approve the project as defined in the Notice of Exemption and direct the Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Alta Loma Drive has an existing hump east of the intersection of Sunny Hill Road that obstructs the view of vehicles turning onto Alta Loma Drive from Sunny Hill Road. Department staff has reviewed Alta Loma Drive and determined that the roadway needs to be lowered to eliminate the hump to increase the level of safety for motorists using the road. Sunny Hill Road is an existing paved road from State Highway 62 to 250 feet north of Alta Loma Drive. This project proposes to improve approximately 0.55 miles of road. The specific road segments to be improved are Alta Loma Drive (from Sunny Hill Road to Outpost Road) and Sunny Hill Road (from Alta Loma Drive northerly for 1,150 feet). Improvements include reprofiling Alta Loma Drive to eliminate the existing hump and paving the dirt section of Sunny Hill Road.

The work will require new road right-of-way. Environmental staff of the Advance Planning Division of the Land Use Services Department has reviewed this item and recommended a categorical exemption for this project. This project qualifies for an exemption in accordance with CEQA guidelines Section 15301(c). An exempt project allows for minor repairs and alterations with negligible expansion of the existing use. As such, when the Board considers the environmental findings, the filing of a Notice of Exemption is required.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico on August 14, 2003 and by the County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst) on August 28, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The action to find the project categorically exempt has minimal financial impact. A separate item will be brought to the Board to approve the plans, specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for construction of the project. The total project cost is estimated at \$300,000, which will be financed by Measure "I" Gas Tax funds included in the Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Transportation Budget (SWS-TRA-TRA-13T01487 and 13T01488).

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 3rd

PRESENTER: Ken A. Miller, 387-7906

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

25